

FAU Center for Autism and  
Related Disabilities

## Strategies for Supporting Instruction & Teaching Young & Elementary Age Children Through Play

**Presented by: Melissa K. Burkhardt, M.S.Ed., BCBA**

**Hosted by: FAU CARD**

### About the Presenter

Melissa K. Burkhardt, M.S. Ed., BCBA, the founder of Early Start Autism, is a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), a certified Early Start Denver Model (ESDM) therapist, and parent coach. She has over 28 years of experience working hands-on with young children with autism, behavioral challenges, and with their families. Melissa taught ESE Pre-K for 20 years in the public-school system and currently coaches teachers on utilizing evidence-based strategies to promote a child's success. She has partnered with a non-profit to offer a parent coaching scholarship to teach lower-income families how to utilize natural daily interactions to promote their child's development. Melissa was selected 2019 Service Provider of the Year-Community Inclusion Awards of Palm Beach County and is the national award-winning author of Autism Society's "2015 Dr. Temple Grandin Outstanding Literary Work of the Year," Exceptionally Good Friends: Building Relationships with Autism."

### Training Description

**Target Audience:** (Mental/Behavioral Health therapists & Providers, Educators, Clinicians, Professionals)

Creating intentional play opportunities for children with autism during the school routine can equip children with the language, social skills, motor, and executive functioning skills required for school success and success in life. This presentation will include how to (1) efficiently assess a child's developmental level of play, (2) teach component skills of play, (3) set up routine and classroom environment to create play opportunities, and (4) use play to increase a child's motivation and decrease problem behaviors.

### Training Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Explain the developmental sequence of play skills and why this information about a child is important to know.
- Identify traits of autism that can attribute to delayed play skill development.
- Identify activities to address factors related to delayed play skills.
- Describe how play can increase a child's language development, social communication skills, and executive functioning skills.
- Identify moments during the school day to take advantage of the benefits of play.
- Describe arrangement of environment and activities to encourage peer interaction during play.
- Describe how intentionally promoting play can decrease problem behaviors.

### Date:

October 1-31, 2022

Registration: Open

### Location:

Online, pre-recorded, 60-minute webinar

### Registration Deadline:

October 31, 2022

Limited to first 500 participants

### Register [here](#)

*Registration is mandatory. Once registered, you will receive a link to view the presentation online.*

### For more information contact:

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*Be sure to contact your ESE District Staff or Staff Development Contact to determine the process for receiving in-service.*